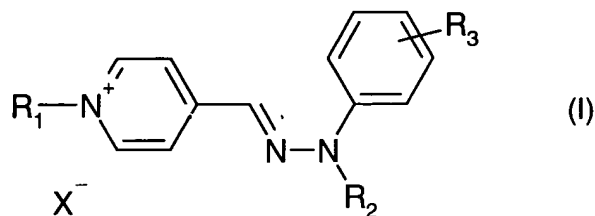


1. (currently amended): A yellow cationic dye of formula (I)



wherein

R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other a C_1 - C_8 alkyl radical or an unsubstituted or substituted benzyl radical, with the proviso that at least one of the substituents R_1 and R_2 is an unsubstituted or substituted benzyl radical,

R_3 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, C_1 - C_8 alkoxy, cyanide, or halide, or preferably hydrogen, and

X^- is an anion,

with the proviso that, when R_1 is a benzyl radical and R_2 is a methyl radical,

R_3 is not hydrogen.

2. (original): A yellow cationic dye of formula (I) according to claim 1,

wherein

R_1 is a methyl radical and

R_2 is a benzyl radical,

R_3 is hydrogen and

X^- is an anion.

3. (original): A yellow cationic dye of formula (I) according to claim 1,

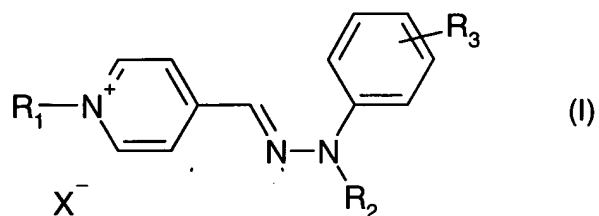
wherein

R_1 and R_2 are a benzyl radical,

R_3 is hydrogen and

X^- is an anion.

4. (currently amended): A process for the preparation of a yellow dye of formula (I)



wherein

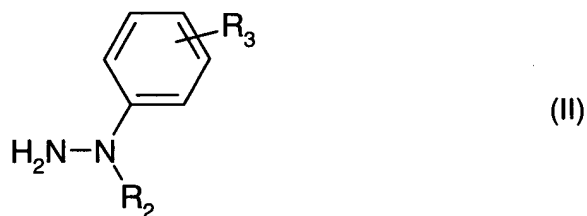
R_1 and R_2 are each independently of the other a C_1 - C_8 alkyl radical or an unsubstituted or substituted benzyl radical, with the proviso that at least one of the substituents R_1 and R_2 is an unsubstituted or substituted benzyl radical,

R_3 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, C_1 - C_8 alkoxy, cyanide, or halide, or preferably hydrogen, and

X^- is an anion,

that comprises

a) reacting a phenylhydrazine of formula (II)



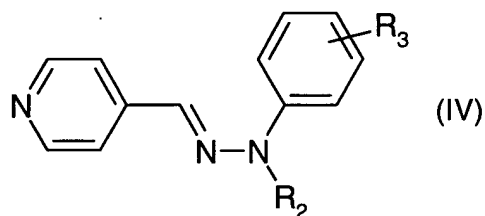
wherein

R_2 is hydrogen, a C_1 - C_8 alkyl radical or an unsubstituted or substituted benzyl radical and

R_3 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_8 alkyl, C_1 - C_8 alkoxy, cyanide, or halide, or preferably hydrogen, with a 4-pyridylaldehyde of formula



by the addition of an acid to form a hydrazone of formula

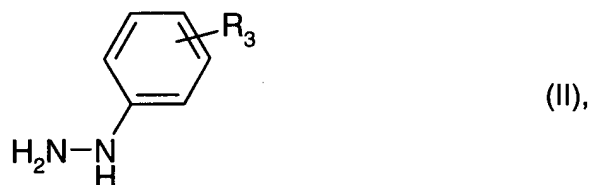


and

b) then reacting the latter compound of formula (IV) with an alkylating or benzylating agent to form a compound of formula (I).

5. (currently amended): A process according to claim 4 that comprises

c) reacting a phenylhydrazine of formula (II)

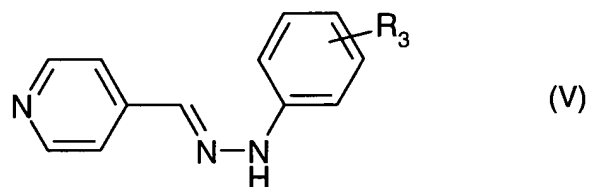


wherein

R₃ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈alkyl, C₁-C₈alkoxy, cyanide, or halide, or preferably hydrogen, with a 4-pyridylaldehyde of formula

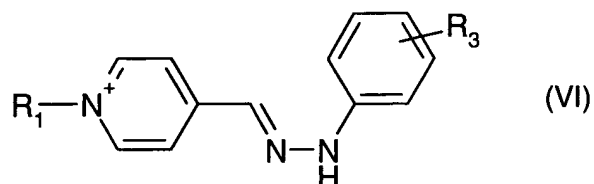


by the addition of an acid to form a hydrazone of formula



and

d) then reacting the latter compound of formula (V) with an alkylating or benzylating agent to form a quaternisation compound of formula (VI)

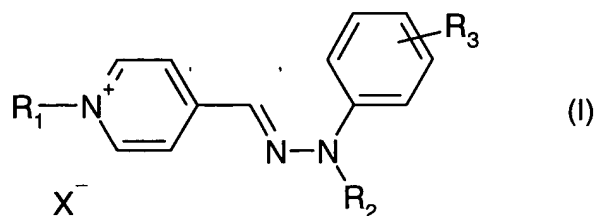


wherein

R₁ is a C₁-C₈alkyl radical or an unsubstituted or substituted benzyl radical, and

e) subsequently reacting, in the presence of a base, with an alkylating or benzylating agent to form a compound of formula (I).

6. (currently amended): A composition comprising at least one yellow dye of formula (I)



wherein

R₁ and R₂ are each independently of the other a C₁-C₈alkyl radical or an unsubstituted or substituted benzyl radical, with the proviso that at least one of the substituents R₁ and R₂ is an unsubstituted or substituted benzyl radical,

R₃ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈alkyl, C₁-C₈alkoxy, cyanide, or halide, or preferably hydrogen, and

X⁻ is an anion, prepared in accordance with a process according to claim 4 or claim 5 and an adjuvant.

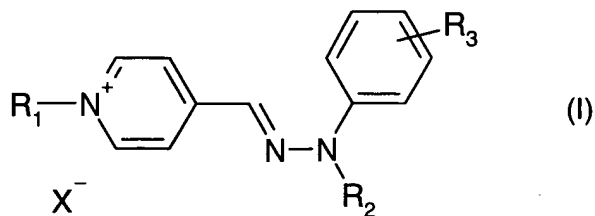
7. (original): A composition according to claim 6 comprising

- a) a compound of formula (I)
- b) a further dye, or an oxidation dye precursor, and
- c) water and,
- d) optionally, further additives.

8. (original): A composition according to claim 6 comprising

- a) a compound of formula (I),
- b) a capped diazonium compound,
- c) a water-soluble coupling component and,
- d) optionally, further additives.

9. (currently amended): A method of dyeing organic material, ~~especially human hair~~, that comprises bringing into contact with the organic material a yellow cationic dye of formula (I)



wherein

R₁ and R₂ are each independently of the other a C₁-C₈alkyl radical or an unsubstituted or substituted benzyl radical, with the proviso that at least one of the substituents R₁ and R₂ is an unsubstituted or substituted benzyl radical,

R₃ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈alkyl, C₁-C₈alkoxy, cyanide, or halide, or preferably hydrogen, and

X' is an anion, ~~or a composition according to any one of claims 6 to 9,~~ and, optionally, further dyes.

10. (original): A method according to claim 9, wherein a yellow cationic dye of formula (I) and, in addition,

in succession in any desired order, or simultaneously,

a capped diazonium compound and

a water-soluble coupling component,

are applied to the material to be dyed under conditions in which coupling does not take place initially, and then the capped diazonium compound disposed on the material is caused to react with the coupling component.

11. (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein, first of all, an oxidation dye mixture that has been rendered alkaline comprising at least one developer substance and at least one coupler substance as well as an oxidising agent and, optionally, a dye of formula (I) and/or a further cationic dye, is applied to ~~the~~ human hair, and then, after a period of action, a composition that has been rendered acidic comprising at least one acid and, optionally, a dye of formula (I) and/or a further cationic dye, is applied to the hair, at least one cationic direct dye being used in the method.

12. (currently amended): A method according to claim 9, wherein, first of all, an oxidation dye mixture that has been rendered alkaline comprising at least one developer substance and at least one coupler substance as well as an oxidising agent and, optionally, a dye of formula (I) and/or a further cationic dye, is applied to ~~the~~ human hair, and then, after a period of action, an oxidation dye mixture that has been rendered acidic comprising at least one developer substance and at least one coupler substance as well as an oxidising agent and, optionally, a dye of formula (I) and/or a further cationic dye, is applied to the hair, a cationic direct dye being used at least once in the method.

13. (new) A method according to claim 9, wherein human hair is dyed.